



## South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



# EAGLE STANDS GUARD OVER HEROES



Two years ago, the Doland American Legion finished a Veterans Memorial as part of the Heritage Wall in Doland. And then doing what veterans always do — they focused on yet another project to honor their heroes. Marine Corps retiree, Joe Remily, adjutant for American Legion Post 69 in Doland, led the charge to secure a veterans memorial for the Doland Cemetery.

For the past five years, this eagle rested along US HWY 212 near Plato, MN, but this past weekend the eagle was given a new home at the Doland Cemetery. The eagle now stands guard over the 85 veterans in the Doland Cemetery.

It is fitting and proper that these veterans selected an eagle for their memorial as it symbolizes long life, great strength and freedom. Living as he does on the tops of lofty mountains, amid the solitary grandeur of nature, the eagle has unlimited freedom.

It is said the eagle was selected as a national emblem because, at one of the first battles of the Revolution (which occurred early in the morning) the noise of the struggle awoke the sleeping eagles on the heights and they flew from their nests and circled about over the heads of the fighting men, all the while giving vent to their raucous cries. "They are shrieking for Freedom," said the patriots. Thus the eagle, full of the boundless spirit of freedom, living above the valleys, strong and powerful in his might, has become the national emblem of a country that offers freedom in word and thought and an opportunity for a full and free expansion into the boundless space of the future.



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Heroes Among Us—  
showcasing 125 South Dakota  
veterans.



## TOUGHEST SOLDIERS CHALLENGED

The best enlisted soldier and noncommissioned officer from eight states competed in the National Guard Bureau's Region 6 Best Warrior Competition. The competition, hosted by the South Dakota National Guard, was held May 19-21, in Rapid City and throughout the Black Hills.

Sixteen Guardsmen competed in a variety of mentally and physically demanding events designed to challenge the toughest of soldiers. The contestants competed for the ultimate title, to be named as either the region's Soldier or Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

Events included written exams, battle drills, M-16 rifle marksmanship, land navigation, an obstacle course, a 10.8-mile road march and a physical fitness test. Soldiers earned points for each event with the highest point earners in each competition advancing to represent the region at the national competition.



The NCO who claimed this year's Region 6 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year title was Sgt. 1st Class Scott Stimpson, from the Oregon ARNG. Staff Sgt. Sam Schaefer, SDARNG, of Watertown, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, finished as the runner-up.

Spc. David Notti, Montana ARNG, won the title of Region 6 Soldier of the Year. Spc. Elijah Putnam, Idaho ARNG, finished as the runner-up.

Stimpson and Notti edged out 14 other Soldiers from Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota and

North Dakota and will advance to compete at the national level competition at Camp Robinson in Little Rock, Arkansas in July.





## PREPARATIONS FOR A PERFECT MEMORIAL DAY



Redfield area veterans gathered at their memorial to prepare for their Memorial Day program. Volunteers of all ages and veterans spruced up the area and changed out the flags.

Veterans have come and gone, but their sacrifices live on. They gave up their lives for our free-

dom and it is honorable that these veterans and volunteers prepare for the day of honoring our heroes.



## TROOPS TO TEACHERS

Secretary Zimmerman recently sent letters to all South Dakota school superintendents encouraging them to hire military veterans participating in the Troops to Teachers (TTT) program. These troop-teachers have served in the U.S. military, many of them in combat. They come from diverse backgrounds and have met South Dakota's rigorous teacher licensure requirements. They are mature, organized, disciplined, and have documented leadership skills.

As you may know, TTT was established in 1994 as a federally funded, U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) program designed to help recruit quality teachers for schools with priority to serve low-income families. Troop-teachers are encouraged to certify in high-need subject areas as mathematics, science, special education, foreign language and technology education.

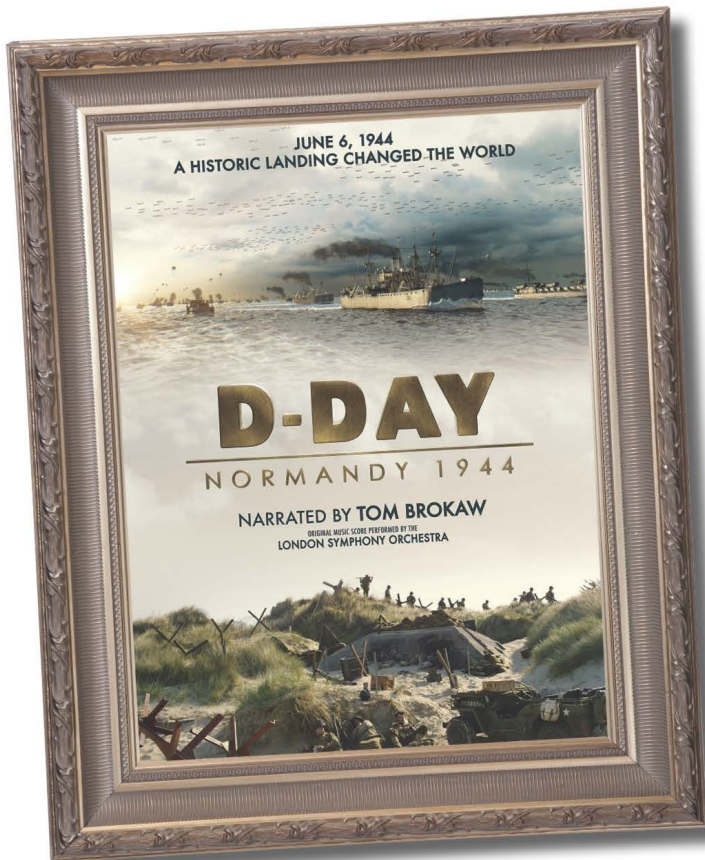
Qualified troop-teachers are eligible to receive financial assistance and incentive pay for teaching in high-need schools for a period of three years. Nearly 40 percent of South Dakota's public school districts have schools that qualify as high-need. Since inception in South Dakota, 57 troop-teachers have been hired and participants have received over \$400,000 in bonuses as an incentive to teach in high-need schools.

For more information on the TTT program, contact the regional Lewis & Clark Troops to Teachers office at [troopstoteachers@bresnan.net](mailto:troopstoteachers@bresnan.net) or 1-866-478-3224.



# NOW SHOWING

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## D-DAY NORMANDY 1944



**TOM BROKAW**, Narrator

"What I was drawn to in this project is that it tells the story of D-Day in a new way that gives such clarity to one of the most important events in the history of mankind. I thought this was going to be another traditional

documentary featuring grainy black and white footage, but as soon as I saw the first minutes of the film on the giant screen, I found it irresistible."

For discounted group pricing or to schedule a special event, please contact Group Services at (605) 367-7397 ext. 2319 or [groupservices@washingtontpavilion.org](mailto:groupservices@washingtontpavilion.org)

### IN CELEBRATION OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY

June 6 & 7, 2014

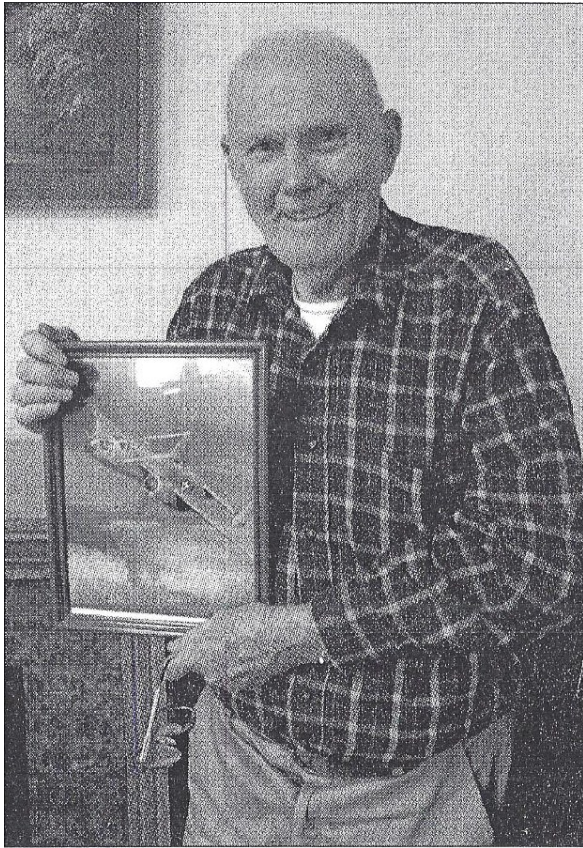
Military/Veterans will receive FREE admission to the film complements of our sponsor Wells Fargo



FOR SHOWTIMES VISIT [WWW.WASHINGTONPAVILION.ORG](http://WWW.WASHINGTONPAVILION.ORG)  
or visit our box office at 301 S. Main Ave., Sioux Falls, SD | (605)367-6000



## HEROES AMONG US



In 1943 Basil "Bud" Murray asked one more time for a transfer into the United States Air Force, and after his request finally was granted, he flew in 54 bombing missions against the Japanese during World War II.

Murray, now age 95, moved from his home in Sisseton to the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home.

He grew up in the Peever area and graduated from Summit High School in 1938. The Depression was on, so he worked for the Civilian Conservation Corps for one year before being drafted. He entered the Coast Artillery, where he was a shortwave radio operator.

However, his real desire was to be in the Air Force. When he asked for the transfer, he was instead sent to the infantry in New York City. He again put in a request to transfer to the Air Force and was told he had to go to gunnery school in Florida before he would be considered. He passed the gunnery school and put in another request for the transfer. "I got in immediately," he said.

Murray performed double duty as a radio operator and a waist gunner. During one mission he was

called forward to load the bombs while the tail gunner took over his position in the radio room. The Japanese shot through the bomb bay, hit a bomb, and deflected the shot into the radio room, shooting off one of the tail gunner's legs. "We dropped our bombs and returned to the home base," Murray said. "I remember that day because it was July 29, my mother's birthday."

Crews were supposed to be sent back to states after running 50 missions, but Murray and his crew stayed and ran 54. He was in the service for three years coming out as a tech sergeant.

In 1949 Bud was inducted into the South Dakota Aviation Hall of Fame at Black Hills Airport/Clyde Ice Field in Spearfish.

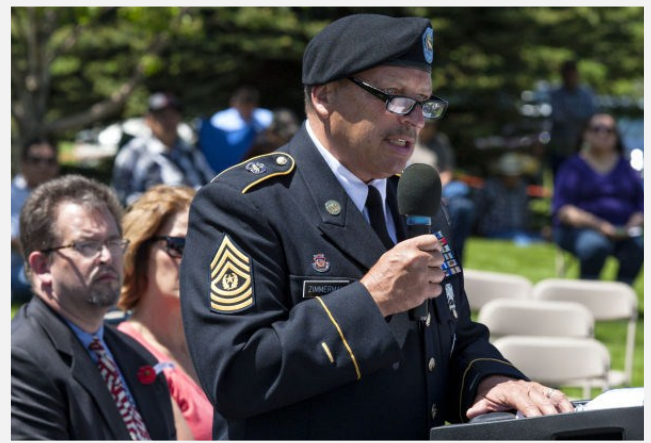
Bud also received two "Distinguished Flying Crosses, one for flying more than 50 missions and one for the Yangtze mission.

Upon his return to civilian life, Bud engaged in construction business.

Thank you Bud for your service to this great country!



## MEMORIAL DAY



Leadership from within the South Dakota Department of the Military and the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs participated in Memorial Day programs throughout the state.

Although their messages varied — the focus was that “Freedom is not Free.” “Our debt to fallen comrades is eternal and it is fitting and proper for us to gather and pay tribute to these fallen heroes who secured that freedom for us. Let us stand softly by their graves and consider the sacrifices they so nobly offered on behalf of a free and grateful nation.”

More than a century and a half ago, the American statesman, Daniel Webster, penned a fitting tribute to generations of Americans in uniform—past, present, and future. Webster wrote: *“Although no ... engraved stone bears record of their deeds, yet will their remembrance be as lasting as the land they honored.”*

### Memorial Day

C W Johnson

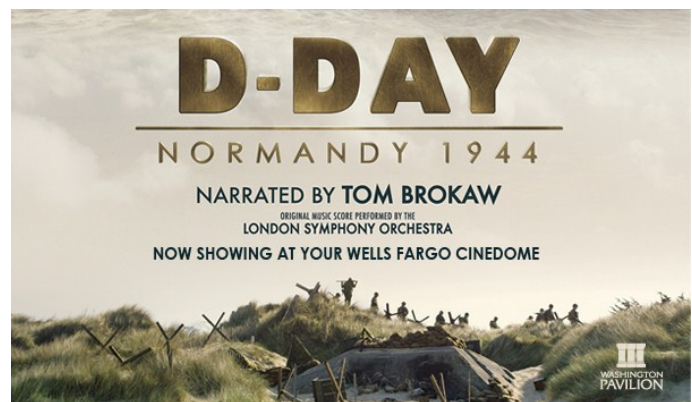
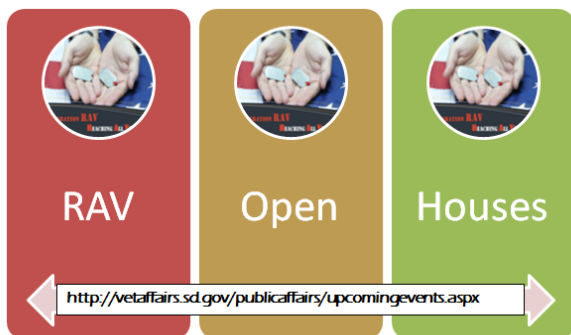
We walked among the crosses  
Where our fallen soldiers lay.  
And listened to the bugle  
As TAPS began to play.  
The Chaplin led a prayer  
We stood with heads bowed low.  
And thought of fallen comrades  
We had known so long ago.  
They came from every city  
Across this fertile land.  
That we might live in freedom.  
They lie here 'neath the sand.  
I felt a little guilty  
My sacrifice was small.  
I only lost a little time  
But these men lost their all.  
Now the services are over  
For this Memorial Day.  
To the names upon these crosses  
I just want to say,  
Thanks for what you've given  
No one could ask for more.  
May you rest with God in heaven  
From now through evermore.



# Upcoming Events

## 2014

Jun 5-8—VFW State Convention—Custer  
 Jun. 14—SD Marine Corps League State Convention—Pierre Post 8 Legion Cabin—10:30 am  
 Jun. 19-22—American Legion State Convention—Ramkota Hotel—Pierre  
 Jul. 7—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—BHNC—9:00 am  
 Jul. 16—SD Veterans Council Meeting—DAV Headquarters—Sioux Falls—10:00 am  
 Aug. 6—DOL Veterans Job Fair—Augustana College Elmen Center—10:00 am—2:00 pm  
 Aug. 22—SFVAHCS Stand Down—Sioux City, IA  
 Aug. 25-29—NACVSO Training Ramkota Hotel—Pierre  
 Sept. 5—SFVAHCS Stand Down—Watertown  
 Sept. 11—SFVAHCS Stand Down—Wagner  
 Sept. 19—SFVAHCS Stand Down—Sioux Falls  
 Oct. 6—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—BHNC—9:00 am



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